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NRC Returns All Three Browns Ferry Nuclear Units to Normal Oversight and Inspection

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has returned all three units at the Browns Ferry nuclear plant to the agency's normal levels of inspection and oversight for the first time in more than four years.

The Browns Ferry plant is operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority and is located near Athens, Ala., about 32 miles west of Huntsville.

The increased oversight ended when NRC officials completed an inspection of the most recent issue at Browns Ferry. It involved staffing needed in the event of an emergency in the plant's control room. The NRC issued an order confirming actions TVA is taking to address the issue. The NRC inspection verified that the steps are appropriate to maintain the needed staffing levels and the agency considers the issue closed.

"The Browns Ferry plant has made significant improvements in safety performance," said NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree. "Even though the plant's three units are returning to normal oversight, we will continue to monitor and inspect the implementation of their improvement plan and the overall safety culture."

The NRC has three resident inspectors at the Browns Ferry plant who are mostly responsible for completing the agency's normal, but still extensive, inspections. Those inspectors are also assisted by specialist inspectors from the NRC regional office in Atlanta.